

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Proposition 50, Chapter 8 Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Grant

PIN	4562	COUNTY	Mendocino
APPLICANT	Mendocino County Water Agency	AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$196,000
PROJECT TITLE	Noyo/Big River Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plan	TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$261,500

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Prepare an Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plan for the Noyo River and Big River watersheds to (1) address non-point runoff pollution through integration of existing plans and programs into a single "Critical Coastal Area Action Plan"; (2) integrate and expand ecosystem restoration efforts to enhance habitat values and improve water quality - primarily through sediment reduction; (3) improve water supply reliability; (4) coordinate and expand environmental education efforts; and (5) protect two areas designated as "Critical Coastal Areas" (Noyo and Big River Estuaries) and one area designated as a "Area of Special Biological Significance" (Pygmy Forest Ecological Staircase).

WORK PLAN - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has a detailed and specific work plan that adequately documents the proposal. Weighting factor is 3.

Score: 9

Comment: The work plan contains the essential elements but additional detail is needed to understand how the tasks will be implemented. Addition of more details of how tasks would be accomplished would strengthen the application. Deliverables/product of tasks is not clear. Budget lacks supporting information so reviewers could not determine if the estimates for tasks are reasonable. Information in work plan tasks does not support budget estimates; additional detail in both areas is needed.

DESCRIPTION OF REGION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented a detailed and specific description that adequately documents the region. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 3

Comment: The applicant defines the region and explains the basis for region boundaries. Maps are provided indicating internal boundaries. Water quality and quantity are discussed. While the application briefly discusses fisheries and timber production, it fails to sufficiently discuss the economic, cultural, or social aspects of the region. There is not enough description of the resources in the ASBS and how this project will help improve water quality issues in the ASBS. Some information provided does not match reviewers understanding of the area. For example, Pygmy ASBS is mapped at an inland location; this ASBS should be located in the ocean.

OBJECTIVES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific planning objectives. Weighting factor is 2.

Score: 8

Comment: The important water related objectives including water supply and quality, and ecosystem restoration are addressed in this proposal. Degradation of ground water quality is identified as an issue in the proposal but it is not included as an objective. The proposal could have scored higher if it discussed in greater detail how the objectives were determined.

INTEGRATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented how water management strategies will be integrated. Weighting factor is 2.

Score: 6

Comment: Although the applicant states that most of the water management strategies listed in the Guidelines will be used, specifics on how they will be used and how they will be integrated are lacking. While there is a separate task for a stand alone CCA Watershed Action Plan, the proposal does not adequately demonstrate how it will integrate the CCAP in the water management strategies. Further discussion regarding integration of strategies and benefits specifically to coastal water quality would have earned the application higher score for this criterion.

IMPLEMENTATION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately detailed plan implementation. Weighting factor is 2.

Score: 4

Comment: The institutional structure for implementation is through the Regional Management Group, although the members of the Regional Management Group are yet to be determined. Management measures for NPS projects have not been identified. There is no schedule for implementation of the plan or mechanism for monitoring plan implementation.

IMPACTS AND BENEFITS - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately presented and documented the impacts and benefits of the Plan. Weighting factor is 2.

Score: 6

Comment: The application lacks discussion or process to evaluate impacts from the proposal. CEQA compliance is not discussed. The application does include some discussion of benefits of the proposal.

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DATA AND TECHNICAL ANALYSIS - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific data and technical analysis components of the proposal. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 4

Comment: The application notes numerous planned and existing technical studies, on a variety of relevant topics including sediment, fisheries, and timber, which would be used in developing the proposal. The proposal would be improved by specifying who will be responsible to collect and house the data.

DATA MANAGEMENT - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific data management procedures. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 2

Comment: There is no detail discussion on data management except to state that data will be put in a GIS system. Disseminating data to the public is implied in the work plan but not stated directly. The applicant may use the Mendocino Water Agency's or Trout Unlimited's website. Statewide data needs relate to Storm water Phase II, TMDLs, and the NPS Program but there is no mention of SWAMP.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented stakeholder involvement concerns. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 4

Comment: The proposal identifies a process for stakeholder input into plan implementation. The appropriate stakeholders are included for a proposal of this nature. Additional stakeholders would be sought through an ongoing public outreach effort. The proposal does not address environmental justice issues.

DISADVANTAGE COMMUNITIES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented disadvantaged community concerns. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 1

Comment: The application does not discuss presence, participation, or benefit to the disadvantaged communities in the area.

RELATION TO LOCAL PLANNING - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented the Plan's relationship to local planning efforts. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 4

Comment: The proposal lists numerous local plans, including plans from private industries and cities, which would be used in formulating the proposal. The application states that programs and policies in the Noyo/Big River ICWMP would support and be in conformance with relevant policies set forth in the County of Mendocino and the City of Fort Bragg's General Plan. A discussion of how these two levels of planning relate to the integrated water management strategies would have earned a higher score on this criterion.

AGENCY COORDINATION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented agency coordination issues. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 4

Comment: The proposal provides for coordination and cooperation between the applicant and local private industries, environmental groups, and State and federal agencies. Although the proposal states that it would be consistent with local county and city plans, it does not sufficiently discuss the extent to which this proposal would facilitate coordination with local land use agencies.

TOTAL SCORE: 55